

CLAIMS

1. An image reading apparatus comprising:
image reading unit, arranged to read an image on
5 an original and output image data thereof;
connecting unit, arranged to connect to at least
one external service providing at least one service for
the image data output from said image reading unit via
a network;
10 personalized service information acquiring unit,
arranged to acquire personalized service information
for personalizing the service so that an operator can
use the service;
personalizing unit, arranged to personalize a
15 setting screen, a setting procedure, and contents of
setting for the operator according to the acquired
personalized service information; and
transmitting unit, arranged to transmit various
settings based on the setting screen, setting procedure,
20 and contents of setting personalized for the operator
by said personalizing unit, together with the image
data via the network to the external service.
2. An image reading apparatus according to claim
1, wherein said personalized service information
25 acquiring unit comprises:
reading unit, arranged to read operator
identification information and the personalized service

information corresponding to the operator from a detachable storage medium; and

identification unit, arranged to identify the operator according to the operator identification information read from the storage medium.

3. An image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said personalized service information acquiring unit comprises:

wireless communication unit, arranged to communicate with a storage medium capable of carrying out wireless communication, the storage medium storing operator identification information and the personalized service information corresponding to the operator; and

identification unit, arranged to identify the operator according to the operator identification information stored in the storage medium.

4. An image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein an external server holding personalized service information associated with respective operator identification information is connected to the network, and said personalized service information acquiring unit transmits operator identification information to the external server via the network, and acquires personalized service information corresponding to the transmitted operator identification information from the external server.

5. An image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein an external server holding personalized service information associated with respective operator identification information and respective apparatus identification information is connected to the network, and said personalized service information acquiring unit transmits operator identification information and apparatus identification information to the external server via the network, and acquires personalized service information corresponding to the transmitted operator identification information and apparatus identification information from the external server.

6. An image reading apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the external service comprises a plurality of external services existing on the Internet, and the external server exists on an intranet.

7. An image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the personalized service information includes identification information on services to be used by the operator, and defaults of various settings for the services to be used.

8. An image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the personalized service information includes identification information on services to be used by the operator, and setting values which can be set by the operator for the services to be used.

9. An image reading apparatus according to claim

1, wherein the personalized service information includes identification information on services to be used by the operator, and setting values inhibited from being used for the services to be used.

5 10. An image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the personalized service information includes identification information on services to be used by the operator, and setting values which can be used by the operator for the services to be used.

10 11. An image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the personalized service information includes identification information to be used by the operator, and setting items inhibited from being used for the services to be used.

15 12. An image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the external service is inhibited from being used when said personalizing unit omits personalization of the service to be used.

20 13. An image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the external service provides a print and book-binding service for the transmitted image data, and said transmitting unit transmits, as the various settings for the external service, settings relating to print format and book-binding format for the print and
25 book-binding service.

14. An image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the external services comprise a print and

book-binding service for the transmitted image data,
and said transmitting unit transmits, as the various
settings for the external service, settings relating to
an address for delivery of a printout obtained by the
5 print and book-binding service.

15. An image reading apparatus according to claim
14, wherein the personalized service information
includes information indicative of an address of the
operator as the address for delivery.

10 16. An image reading apparatus according to claim
14, wherein the personalized service information
includes information indicative of the operator as who
is to be charged for the service.

15 17. An image reading apparatus according to claim
1, wherein the personalized service information
includes part of authentication data to be used for
user authentication when the operator uses the service.

18. An image reading apparatus according to claim
1, wherein said personalized service information
20 acquiring unit acquires plural pieces of personalized
service information, and said personalizing unit
comprises selecting means for selecting a desired
service from among services personalized for the
operator according to the acquired plural pieces of
25 personalized service information.

19. An image reading apparatus according to claim
18, comprising adding unit, arranged to add various

settings as to the service personalized for the operator according to the acquired personalized service information as new personalized service information to the acquired personalized service information.

5 20. A personalizing method for an image reading apparatus comprising an image reading unit arranged to read an image on an original and output image data thereof, and connecting unit arranged to connect to at least one external service providing at least one
10 service for the image data output from the image reading unit via a network, the method comprising:

 a personalized service information acquiring step of acquiring personalized service information for personalizing the service so that an operator can use
15 the service;

 a personalizing step of personalizing a setting screen, a setting procedure, and contents of setting for the operator according to the acquired personalized service information; and

20 a transmitting step of transmitting various settings based on the setting screen, setting procedure, and contents of setting personalized for the operator in said personalizing step, together with the image data via the network to the external service.

25 21. A program for causing a computer to execute a personalizing method for an image reading apparatus comprising image reading unit arranged to read an image

on an original and output image data thereof, and
connecting unit arranged to connect to at least one
external service providing at least one service for the
image data output from the image reading unit via a
5 network, the program comprising:

a personalized service information acquiring
module for acquiring personalized service information
for personalizing the service so that an operator can
use the service;

10 a personalizing module for personalizing a setting
screen, a setting procedure, and contents of setting
for the operator according to the acquired personalized
service information; and

a transmitting module for transmitting various
15 settings based on the setting screen, setting procedure,
and contents of setting personalized for the operator
by said personalizing module, together with the image
data via the network to the external service.

22. A storage medium storing a program according
20 to claim 21 for reading by a computer.